117. Need for teaching commerce and industry in all Schools.

Mr. T. K. Kittan (Member, Nominated) expressed his satisfaction at the measures taken and proposed to be taken by Government in regard to the teaching of commerce, industry and agriculture. He urged the necessity of introducing commerce and industry in all schools. He requested that, in view of the decision of the Government that it would be more advantageous to open separate technical schools for the teaching of those subjects, such schools might be started with the least avoidable delay.

The Member next referred to the invention of shorthand and type-writing in Malayalam. He requested that due encouragement might be given by Government to the young men who invented them and that those subjects might be taught as optional subjects in Vernacular Middle and High Schools.

He then requested that rewards might be offered to people who made investigations of any kind that would be of use to the people in the development of industries and in other ways, that an annual allotment for the purpose might be sanctioned in the Budget, and that the fact of the offer of such rewards might be published in the Gazette and the newspapers.

Lastly, the Member requested that, when the question of the establishment of technical schools was taken up, a technical school might be opened at Kottayam.

Dewan's reply.—It is, as you know, the policy of Government to increase the number of Industrial schools, but it is necessarily a slow process. You may be quite sure that the Government will do all that they possibly can in this matter. Government will be glad to see Malayalam Shorthand introduced and would like to encourage the young man who is engaged in inventing it. Let him write to Government about it.

Member.—There is one Mr. Pandalai who knows it.

Dewan.—Yes. Let him write to Government. We shall encourage him.

You want commercial subjects to be included in the curriculum of schools. In aided schools, that is a matter to be left to the discretion of the managers. If you want to have them introduced in the departmental schools, we want teachers. The teachers should, in the first instance, be turned out by the Commercial School at Alleppey. When a sufficient number of teachers are forthcoming, we can introduce them.

You want rewards to be given to people who make new inventions. That is better done at Exhibitions. We must have periodical Exhibitions. Government will give grants to Agricultural and Industrial Exhibitions, and in these Exhibitions, any new invention is bound to be rewarded and encouraged.

As regards patents, we do grant patents. We have got a Patents and Designs Regulation, to deal with new inventions. If there is any real invention, Government will be glad to give a patent.

As regards the starting of an Industrial School at Kottayam, it is part of Government's policy which can be given effect to only step by step.

118. Need of imparting instruction in Survey to Boys in Vernacular Schools.

Mr. Avira Mathai (Member, Muvattupuzha Taluk) represented that, although Travancore could boast of a high percentage of literacy, the education imparted in the schools in the State was merely literary. He expressed satisfaction at the decision of the Government to introduce Manual Training in schools. The Member then suggested the introduction of survey-teaching in vernacular schools from Class III to Class VII in order to give a working knowledge of elementary survey to all pupils who passed through vernacular schools. He dwelt at length on the advantages to be derived by having a knowledge of survey to the ordinary layman. The Member then associated himself with what Mr. K. M. Mamman Mappillai had

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